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VERSUS
BLACK CAT!



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STRIKE ONE!

GULP! WHAT IF I STRIKE OUT???

I'LL DO MY BEST, COACH.

STRIKE TWO!

YOU CAN DO IT, SCOTTIE!

YOU'RE A CRACKER JACK.

ZOOM!

WHAP!

WHEN YOU'RE REALLY GOOD- THEY CALL YOU CRACKER JACK

YOU DID IT, SCOTTIE.

WE WON THE PLAYOFFS!

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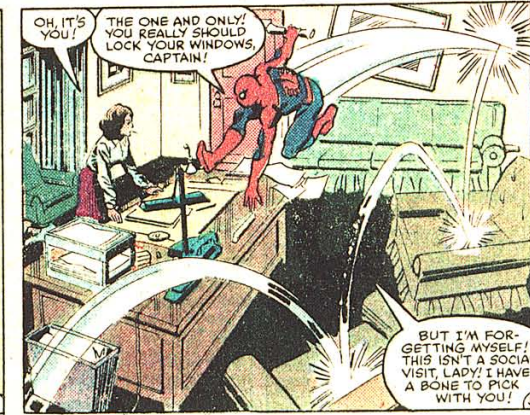
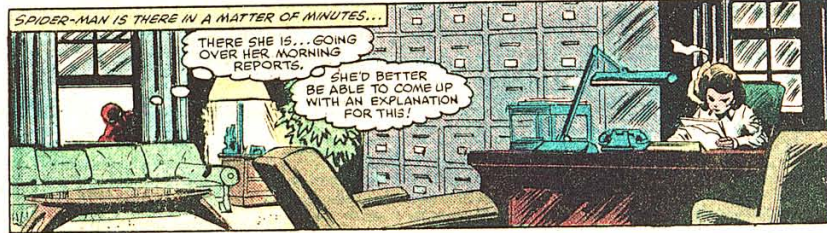
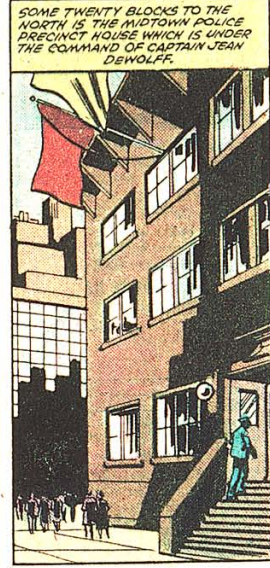
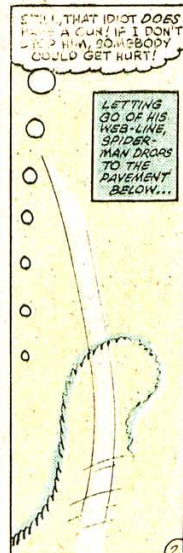
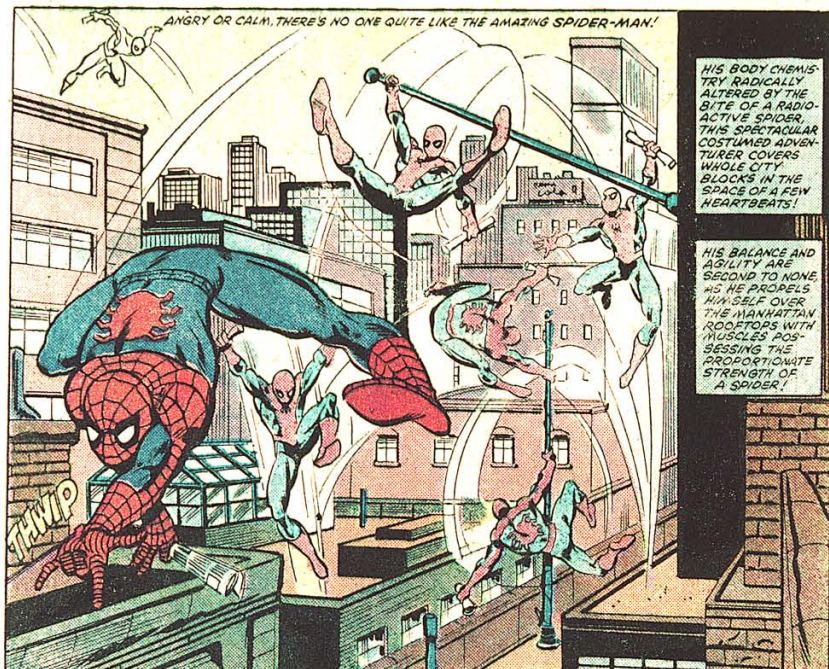
GOIN' STRAIGHT!

I KNOW I SHOULDN'T LET THESE THINGS BOTHER ME, BUT THIS MORNINGS HEADLINE IN THE DAILY BUGLE REALLY MADE MY BLOOD BOIL!

SOMEBODY'S GOING TO ANSWER FOR THIS!!

ROGER STERN
WRITER
JOHN ROMITA JR. & JIM MOONEY
ARTISTS
JOE ROSEN
LETTERER
TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR
BOB SHAREN
COLORIST
JIM SHOOTER
EST. 1951

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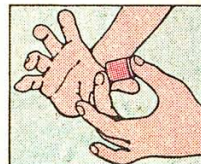
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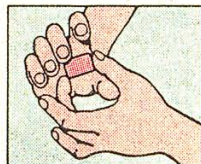
The magic in gum is Bubble Yum.



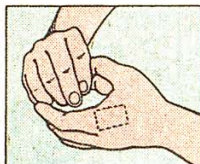
Try this magic trick with your next piece.



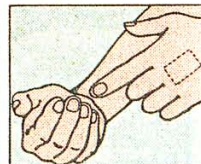
Hold the Bubble Yum between the thumb and middle finger of your left hand.



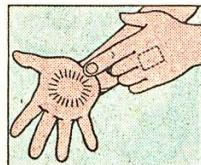
Pretext to grab it with your right hand while you really drop it into the palm of your left hand.



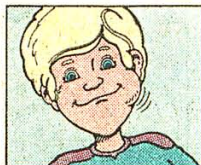
Keep the fingers of your right hand loose as if they had the gum.



Point with the left hand while you secretly hold the gum in your palm.

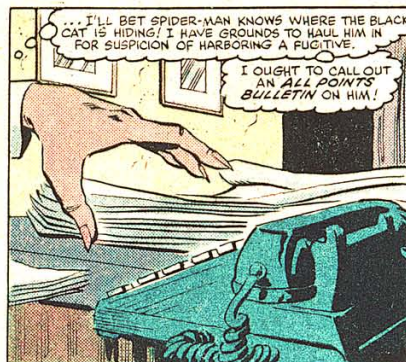
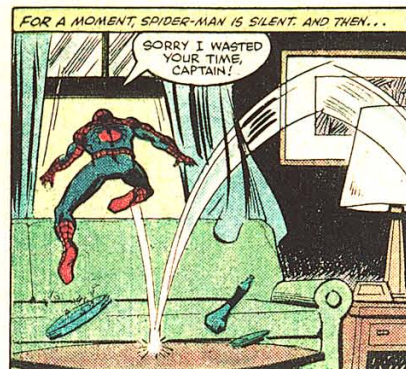
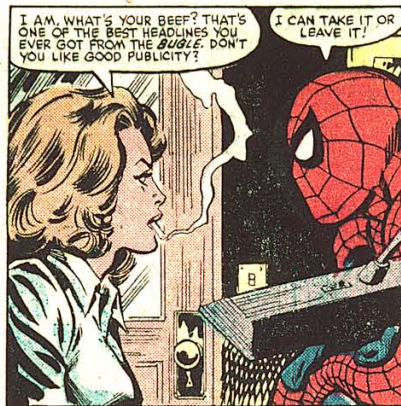


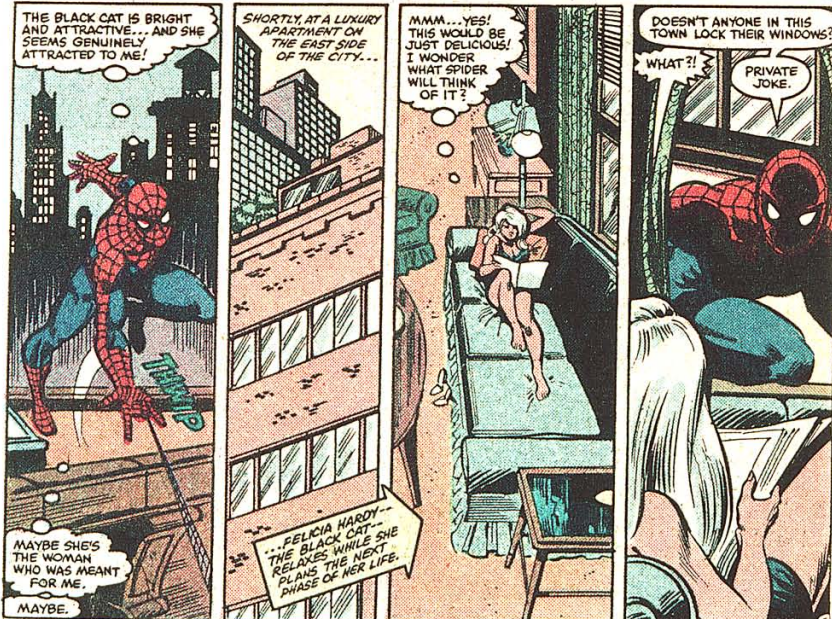
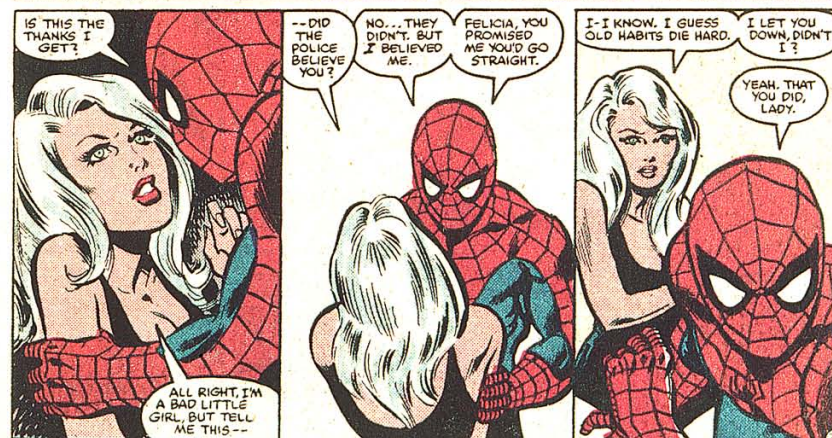
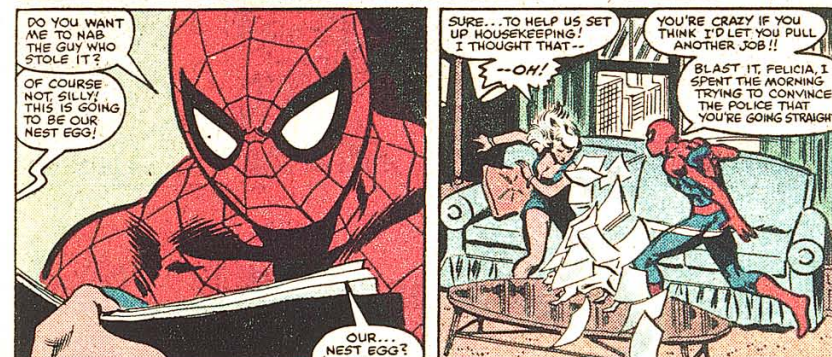
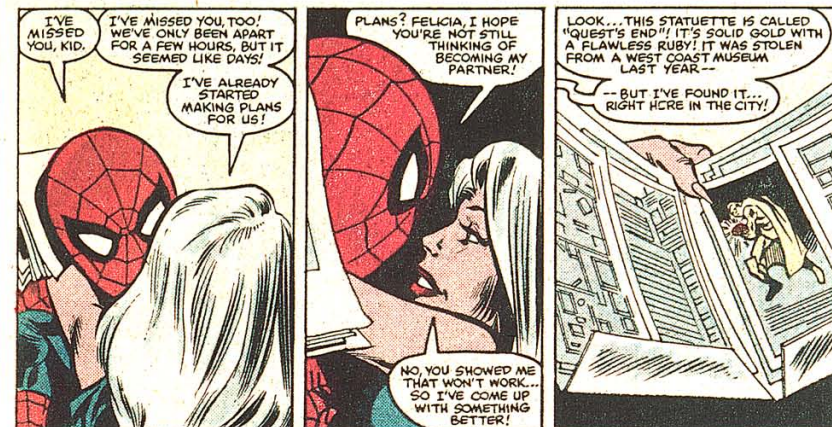
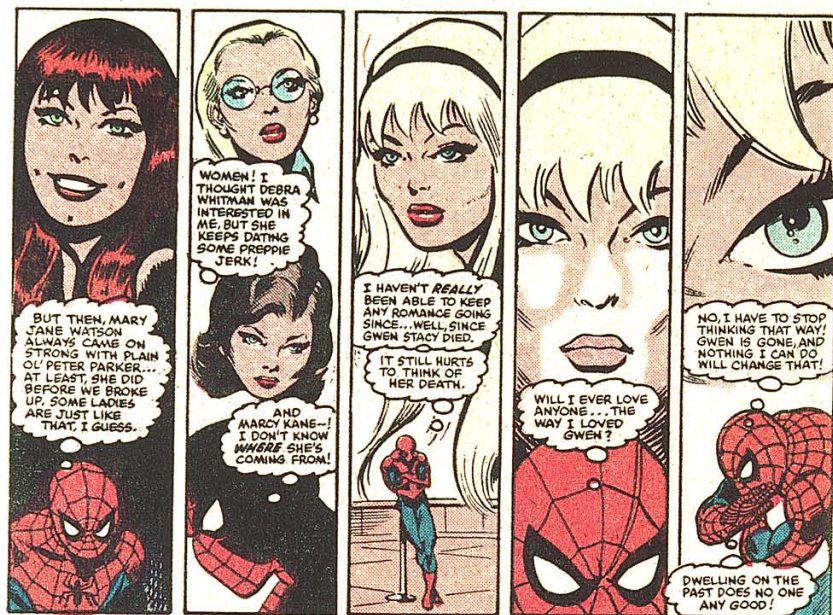
Say "Presto chango!" and open your right hand to show that the Bubble Yum has magically disappeared.

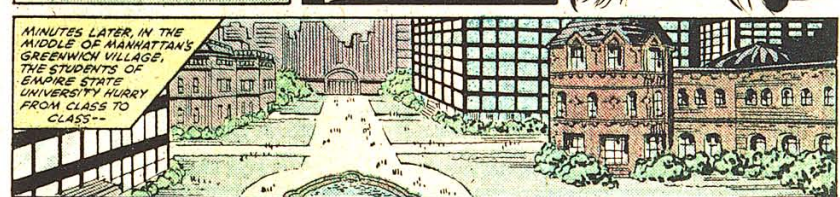
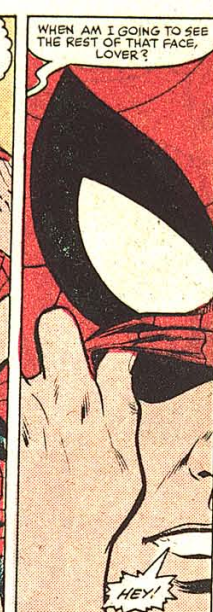
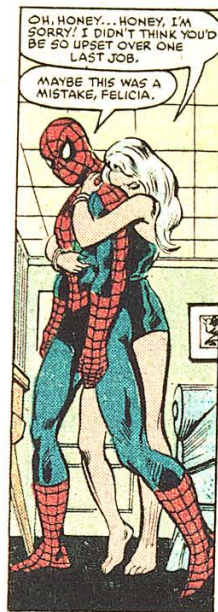


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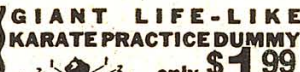
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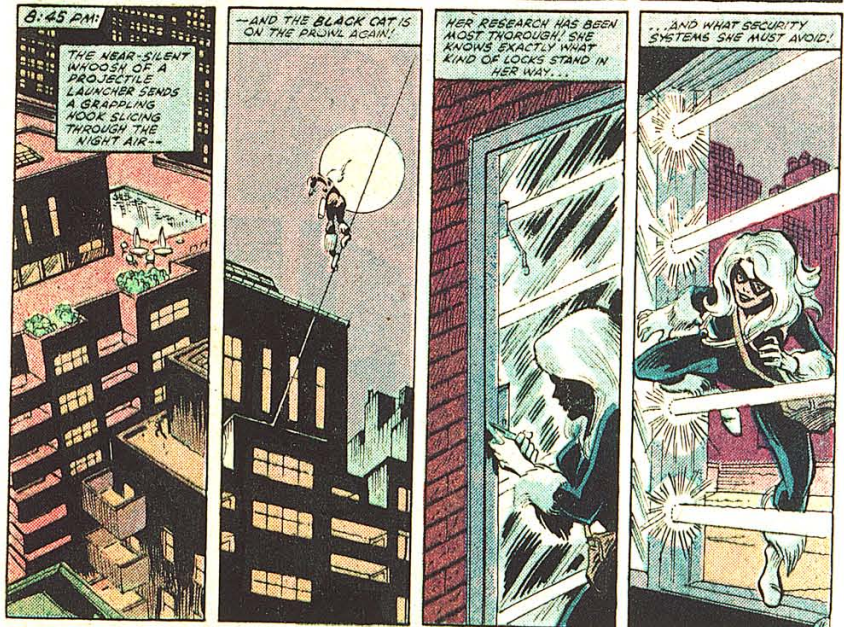
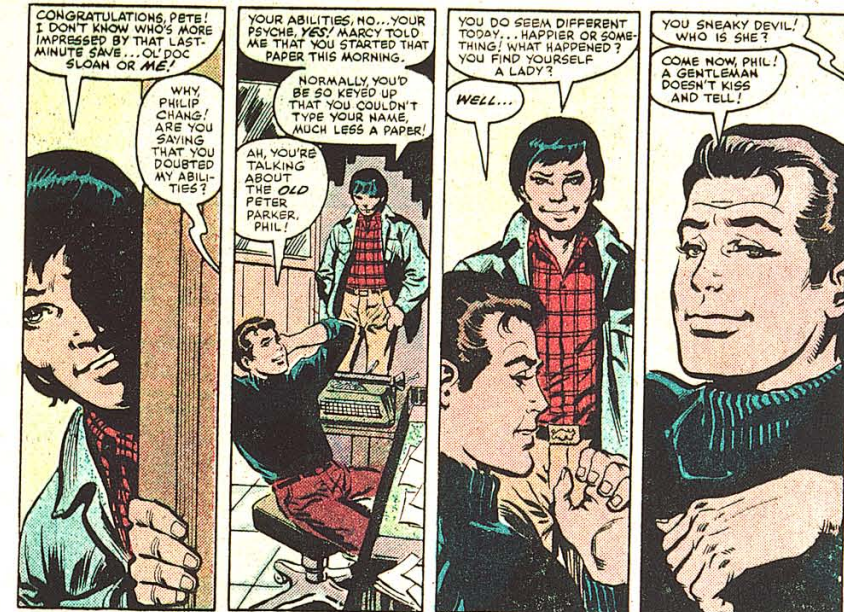
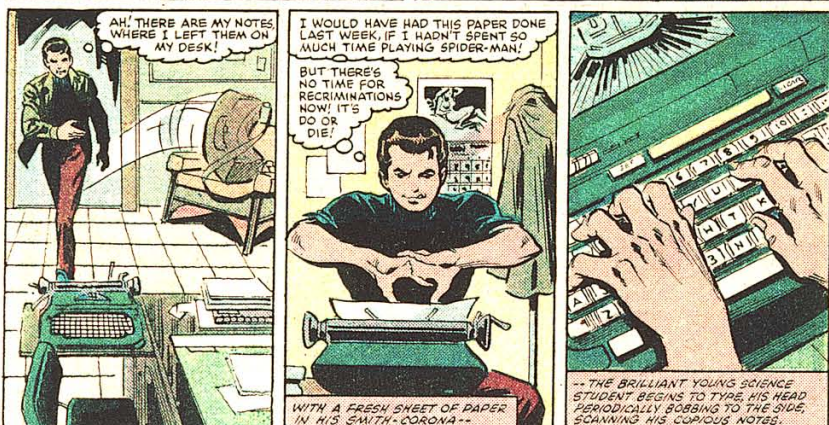
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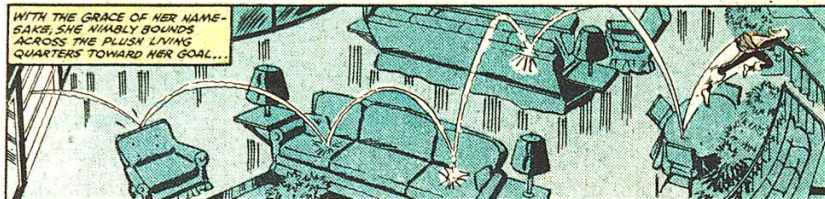
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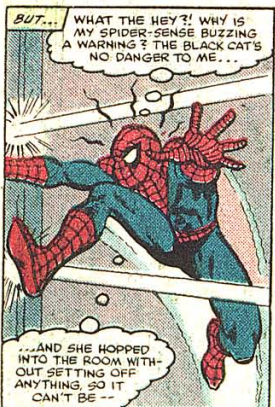
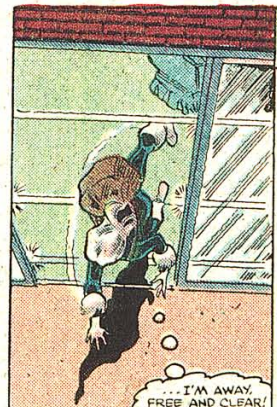
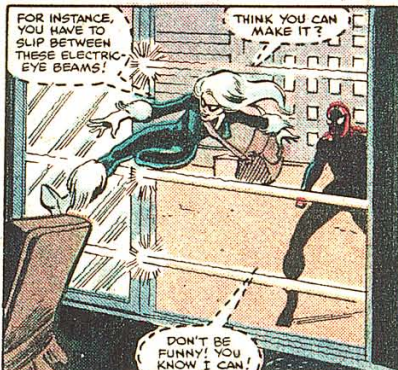
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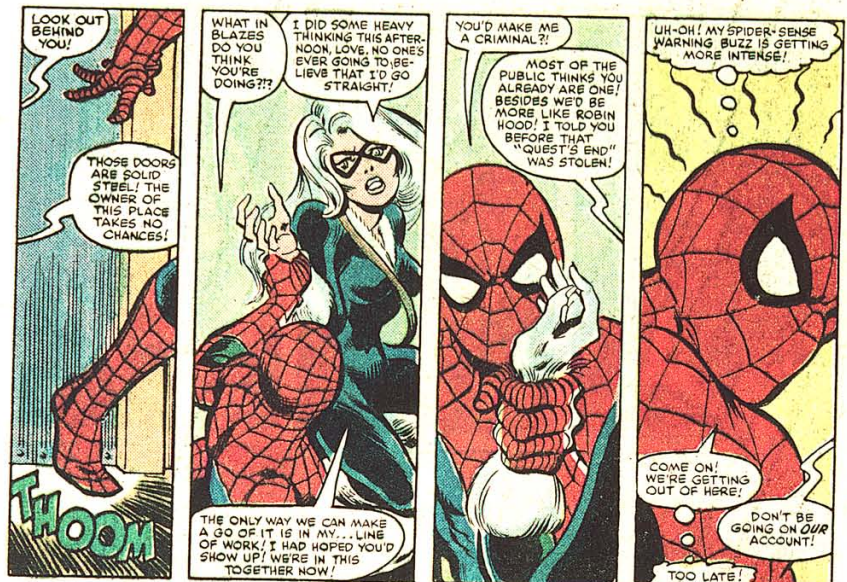


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TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
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Dear Denny, Marc, John, & Al,

I'm really glad to see that John Romita Jr. has come back to pencil the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Under John's artistry, the book is really starting to look the way it did in the old days.

I really liked issue #223 a lot. "Night of the Ape!" reminded me of the old SPIDER-MAN stories which made Marvel what it is today! While I'm not particularly fond of the Red Ghost, the whole story with Roger Hoochberg was great. In fact, I hope that Hoochberg appears in future stories. I'd also like to see Mary Jane Watson back... and Scott Pote needs her... and so does AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. And how about bringing in more people we haven't seen in a while -- like Harry Osborn, Flash Thompson, Randy Robertson, the Scorpion, Electro, or the Chameleon.

Well, thanks again for getting J.R. back behind the drawing board. Perhaps we could see a Romita Sr. Jr. team-up someday?

Mark Waldman
6939 Armo Avenue
Northridge, CA 91324

Perhaps, Mark... If we can ever pull the elder Romita away from his special projects long enough!

And, yeah -- we're glad to have J.R. back on the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, too! (As is just about all of Marveldom Assembled!)

Dear Tom,

I just wanted to drop you a line regarding AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #223. I enjoyed the issue very much because it really did something to me. The story touched me deeply, and I feel compelled to tell you about it.

To be sure, the more action-oriented scenes with the Red Ghost and his Super-Apes were handled very well. But the part of the book which interested me most involved the civilian adventures of Peter Parker. Parker is such a colorful character -- both in and out of costume -- and it's great to watch him grow over the years. He's become so real... it's hard to imagine things without him!

Please keep up the great and sensitive work. Your efforts are most appreciated.

C. Aguiarivas
37-49 85th Street, Apt. 24
Jackson Heights, NY 11372
So are your letters, C.A.!

Dear Marvel,

SPIDER-MAN has been moving along excellently the past few issues. We've been

treated to more insights into Peter Parker's personal life, while -- at the same time -- we've witnessed some pretty fine battles. I do enjoy seeing Spider-Man easily win some fights once in awhile, as he did against Ramrod and the Ringer recently.

One aspect of SPIDER-MAN which has always made this magazine so enjoyable is the supporting cast. No other comic has so many interesting characters. Lately, we've seen the likes of J. Jonah Jameson, Joe Robertson, Debra Whitman, Marcy Kane, the rest of the teaching assistant staff, numerous Daily Bugle personnel, and (of course) Aunt May. Naturally, there are a number of characters who we haven't seen for a while -- Harry Osborn, Mary Jane Watson, and Flash Thompson, to name just a few. You see, I went off to college and lost contact with many high school friends; then, after college, I joined VISTA and left everyone I knew a thousand or so miles away. I met new people, made new friends, and had many new experiences. Some people back home I kept in touch with... some I did not, though their memory is with me! I see a lot of this in Spider-Man. He's in a new phase of his life, facing the problem which all of us have... that of being unable to remain close to all of the people we meet in life. Still, those people are not forgotten, and sometimes we hear from them when we least expect it. Hopefully, the characters we have not seen for a while are not forgotten, but are living their lives along different paths from Peter. Perhaps, we will see some of them again. Meanwhile, we can enjoy the company of those who are present, lending so much to the book and the stories.

Peter Felitti
2525 Avenue G, Apt. 4
Scottsbluff, NE 69381

Not a bad philosophy, Pete! You're certainly right about one thing -- ya just never know when an old acquaintance from Spider-Man's past might turn up! Harry and Liz Osborn recently took their bows in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #63. And in two short issues, another long missing SPIDER-MAN regular makes her long awaited return!

(Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of tantalizing teasers?)

Dear Spider-People,

I've been a dedicated Spiderphile since issue #170 (sorry I was such a slow starter), and I felt it was about time I filled you in on some feelings I have about the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

Concerning the women in the Web-

head's life...

Bring back Mary Jane Watson! It's not that I want her to stay, mind you! Just have her show up once or twice to explain to ol' Pete her view on life and love. Then have her move to Los Angeles or some such place (she belongs there). Peter doesn't need the hassles she puts him through; she's not worth it!

What's Betty Brant Leeds up to? The last we saw, she was spittsville from husband Ned, and moving in with Liz Allen. Where is she now? If she's not up to restarting her old relationship with Pete, at least get them together long enough to patch up old differences.

How about April May? Remember her? There may be more to her than met the eye!

Let's face it, Peter Parker needs a stabilizing influence in his life. Sweet old Aunt May just isn't enough any more. How about a steady lady for the Web-head?

Relationships aside, wouldn't it be nice if something beneficial happened to Pete... like, say, winning a lottery? Not necessarily a big one... but it'd be interesting to see how Pete handled having some ready cash.

And what's the score with J. Jonah Jameson? Spider-Man has pulled the Bugle publisher's fat out of the fire many a time, and even helped save his son, John Jameson, from the curse of the Man-Wolf (SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #3). Even a grudge-head like Jameson has to eventually face the fact that Spider-Man isn't a menace! I'm not saying that Jonah should go build a shrine for the Wall-crawler... I'd just like to see him leave Spidey alone for a while! Is that too much to ask?

The plotting on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN hasn't been too bad, but you could always make it better. We need some more overviews of Parker's personal lifestyle. And how about seeing Pete solve some of his more mundane problems without switching to the Spider-Man? Hmm?

The art is fantastic when John Romita Jr. is on the case. Let's hope you can keep him around for a while!

Well, that's all for now. Onward and forward to ASM #300!

David Alevedo
(No street address given)
Bronx, NY 10458

Thanks for speaking your mind, Dave! We have to admit that you have a lot of good points, and raised a lot of important questions. As a matter of fact, we wouldn't be surprised if a lot of these questions weren't answered in the months ahead!

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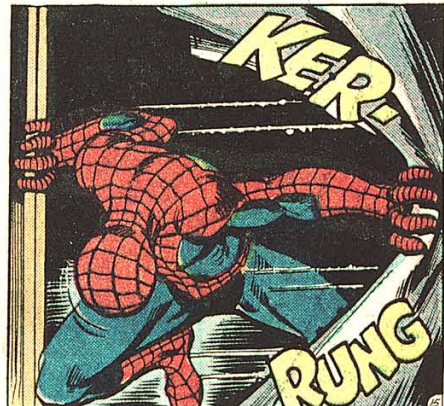
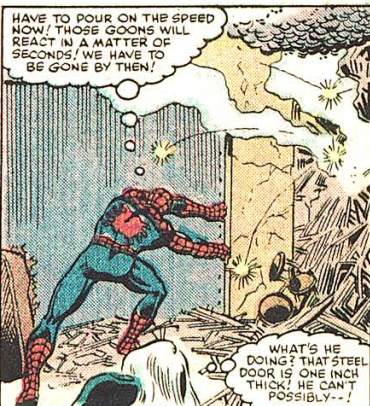
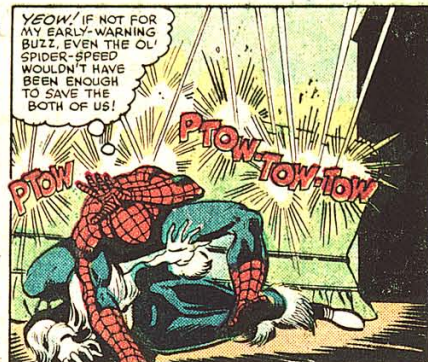
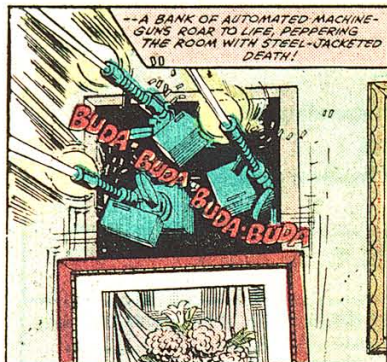
POEMS SET TO MUSIC

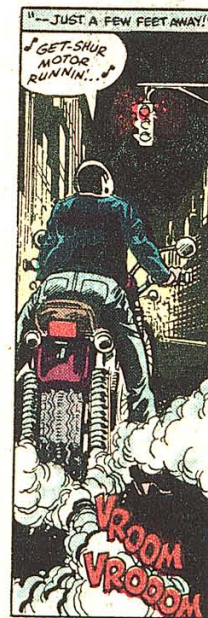
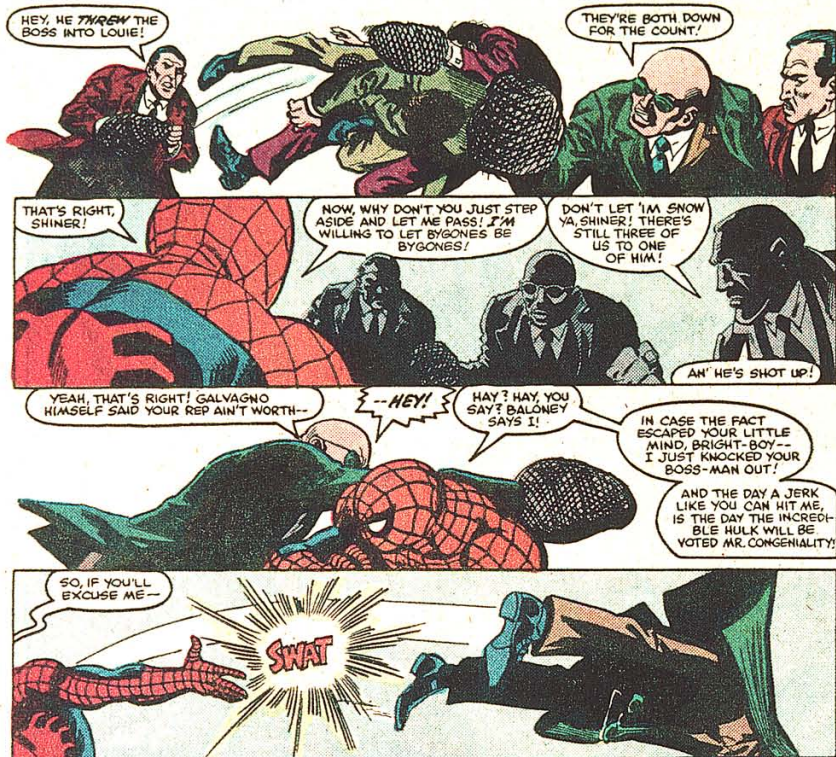
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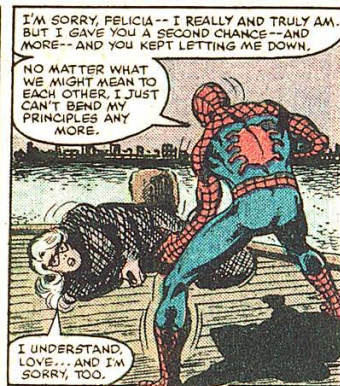
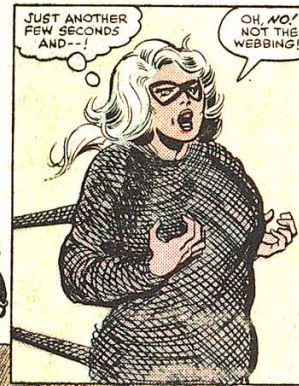
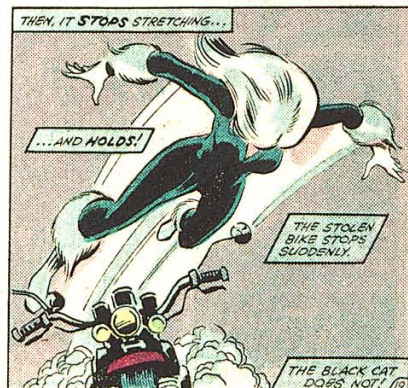
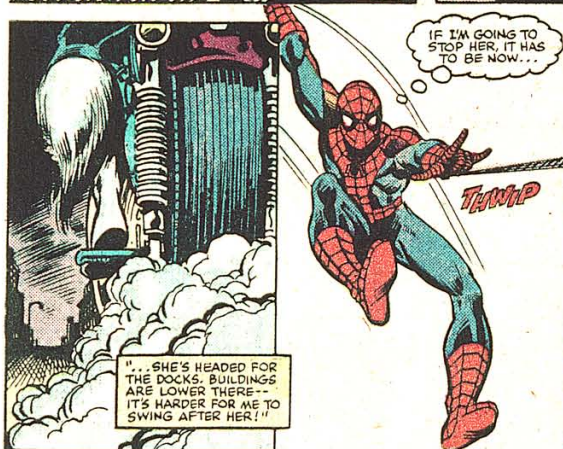
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BULLPEN BULLETINS

HELLO, IT'S ME...

Yes, I'm back again, the world's largest Polish Leprechaun, communicating to you through the magic of these funny-shaped ink smudges because I'm also Editor-in-Chief around here and that means I got to do whatever I want. Almost.

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE, DEPT.

Long-time readers can remember the days of yore, when, occasionally, an issue of one of their favorite titles which was supposed to contain a new story would instead contain a reprinted story, along with an apology from us saying that once again we'd fallen prey to the "Dreaded Deadline Doom". That meant that the new story had not gotten done in time. Why not? Generally, it happened because the artists and writers involved, being human, got sick, lost some pages, had a creative block, got their due dates crossed, or were kidnapped by aliens for a week while they should have been working.

Has anyone out there noticed that Marvel hasn't had a single unscheduled reprint for over four years? It's been touch and go a few times, but we've never succumbed to the D.D.D. even once since I became E.I.C. Furthermore, we're now further ahead of our printing schedules than we've ever been in our forty-odd years of publishing! How, you might ask, did I accomplish such feat. Well, gang, here's the truth. I didn't.

The credit for Marvel's current on-time-ness goes to Virginia Romita—Traffic Manager, keeper of the schedules and the records, who, through a combination of love, understanding, and guerrilla tactics keeps us all on the ball and on time. Too long has she been the unsung heroine of the never ending war against Creeping Lateness.

Mike Hobson (our Publishing Vice-President) and I are often praised and congratulated for Marvel's terrific progress schedule-wise, but no one seems to notice the little lady who lugs that giant schedule book up and down the halls—the lady with the built-in lie-detector that can always tell "I'll have it tomorrow" (meaning next week) from "I'll have it tomorrow" (meaning tomorrow). It's time the record was set straight.

Thanks, Virginia, for all you do. You're the best Traffic Manager in the universe and a beautiful, wonderful person besides.

AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT...

...it's about time I mentioned the patient personage who typesets all these words of wit, our own charming Marian Stengard—mainly, because, if I don't she'll get mad and hoo nose what shee mite due tur revenge?

OKAY, GUYS, NOBODY LEAVES TILL I FIND OUT WHAT WE'RE DOING STRUNG OUT ALONG THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE LIKE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS! WITH HATS ON, YET!

VELL, COMRADE DENNY, HERE MIT CUTESKI HATS, COMRADE BIG JIMSKI IS WANTING TO MAKINK US FAMOUS!

SORRY, FOLKS, BUT I WON'T DON A CHAPEAU FOR ANYBODY! BESIDES, I'M ALREADY FAMOUS! I'VE BEEN SEEN WITH VINCENT FURNIER!

YOU TALKIN' TO ME? YOU MAKIN' FUN OF MY HAT? YOU WANT ME TO SINK YOUR BATTLESHIPS?

UH, RIGHT, LARRY... AND BY THE WAY, FOLKS—THIS ISN'T MY FACE! IT'S A MASK! MY IDENTITY MUST REMAIN SECRET TO PROTECT MY LOVED ONES.



DENNIS J. O'NEIL



ALLEN MILGROM



JIM SALICRUP



LARRY HAMA



TOM DeFALCO?

OFF INTO THE SUNSET...

Tune in again next month when, in answer to numerous requests (no kidding) I'll explain what the word "Bulpen," as in "Marvel Bulpen," means. Also, as an added feature, I promise to run absolutely no pictures of Marvel Editors! Guaranteed!

May you find a pot o' kielbasa at the end of the rainbow!

Not
JIM SHOOTER

THE HYPE BOX

Here's what we're jumping up and down about this month...

MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #85 — The Thing and the Sandman go head to head for the greatest... conversation of all? It's the most off-beat and exciting character study you'll see in a decade.

DAREDEVIL #181 — Special double-sized issue! That'll have all fandom gasping for months! Bullseye vs. Elektra! One wins... one dies! Don't miss this FRANK MILLER/KLAUS JANSON shocker!

MARVEL TALES #138 — Reprinting — in its entirety — Amazing Spider-Man #1 by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO.

WHAT IF? #32 — "What If the Avengers Were the Pawns of Konqac?", featuring all of Marvel's comic heavies including Galactus, the Watcher, the Stranger, the Celestials, the Grand Master, and the High Evolutionary. Oh yeah—it's got the Avengers, too. Written and laid-out by MARK GRUENWALD with pencils by GREG LAROCQUE.

BIZARRE ADVENTURES #30 — Because you demanded it: the return of *Paradox!* Co-produced by BILL MANTLO, MIKE VOSSBURG, and JOE JUSKO.

MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL #1 — Join us as we usher in a new era of pictorial story-telling with this, the first of Marvel's new Graphic Novel series. To get things off to a startling beginning, we've got the long-awaited epic entitled, "The Death of Captain Marvel!" Written and drawn by JIM STARLIN. This 48-page squarebound trade paperback will be beautifully printed in full-color on high quality paper. It'll sell for \$4.95 and be available in comic shops only. We think you'll find the price—and the search—worth the trouble. We know you will.

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #85 — The Thing and the Sandman in a moving, off-beat tale.
- ☐ SPIDER-WOMAN #43
- ☐ DAZZLER #14
- ☐ KA-ZAR #13
- ☐ DENNIS THE MENACE #6
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #181 — Special double-sized issue!
- ☐ GIANT SILVER SURFER #1 — This time for sure!
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #227
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #268
- ☐ THOR #318
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #40
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #57
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #18
- ☐ DR. STRANGE #52
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #270
- ☐ AVENGERS #218
- ☐ CONAN #133
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #138 — Reprinting in its entirety... Amazing Spider-Man #1 by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO
- ☐ X-MEN #156
- ☐ ROM #29
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #80
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #241
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #116 — Spider-Man, the Valkyrie, and the mighty Thor!
- ☐ IRON MAN #157
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #65
- ☐ DEFENDERS #106
- ☐ STAR WARS #58
- ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #111
- ☐ WHAT IF? #32 — Featuring the Avengers, Galactus, the Watcher, the Celestials, the Stranger, the Grand Master, and the High Evolutionary! Whew!

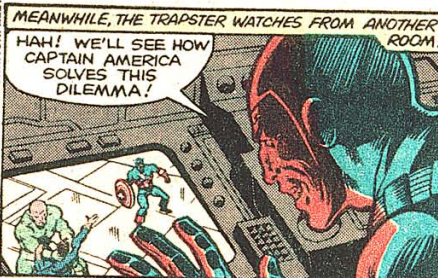
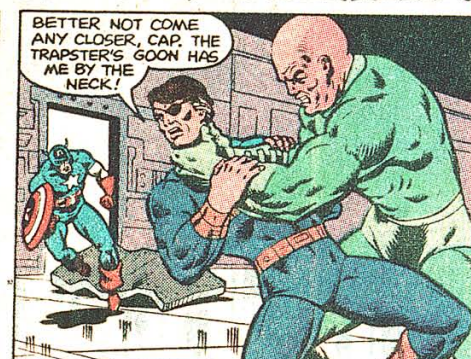
MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ CRAZY #84 — An American Warshow in London, the Tonot Show, and lots more funny stuff!
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #74
- ☐ BIZARRE ADVENTURES #30 — The return of *Paradox!*

SPECIAL EVENTS

- ☐ MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL #1 — THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN MARVEL. The beginning of a new era in pictorial storytelling (see Hype Box for details).

CAPTAIN AMERICA IN "FURY UNLEASHED!"



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IN A FLASH, SPIDER-MAN IS BENEATH THE WAVES, DIVING AFTER THE BLACK CAT THROUGH THE MURK OF THE EAST RIVER.

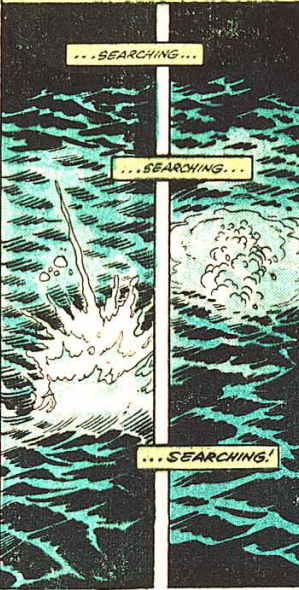


TEN MINUTES LATER...
WHY? IT'S BLACK AS PITCH DOWN THERE! I CAN'T SEE MORE THAN A FEW FEET—EVEN WITH THE LIGHT FROM THE SPIDER-SIGNAL BEAM ON MY BELT!



BUT I HAVE TO KEEP TRYING!

FILLING HIS ULTRA-POWERFUL LUNGS WITH AIR, THE MASKED ADVENTURER DIVES DOWN AGAIN...



...SEARCHING...

...SEARCHING...

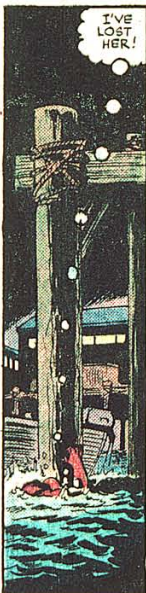
...SEARCHING!

BUT FINALLY...



KOFF-KOFF

NO USE...THE BULLET WOUND HAS LEFT ME TOO WEAK...CAN'T GO ON! HAVE TO...FACE FACTS...



I'VE LOST HER!

SOMETIME LATER...

AND THERE WAS NO TRACE OF HER?
THAT'S WHAT I JUST SAID.
OW!
WATCH IT, KIDARE! THAT LEG IS PART OF A MATCHED SET!



MULDOON, TAKE THE OTHERS AND WAIT FOR US ON THE STREET.



BUT, CAPTAIN--HE STILL HAS TO SIGN THE STATEMENTS AND--

THAT CAN WAIT, MULDOON. LET THE MAN CATCH HIS BREATH!

AWRIGHT, YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN!



C'MON, GUYS!



ARE YOU GONNA BE OKAY?

I'LL LIVE.

SHE WAS... SOMETHING SPECIAL TO YOU, WASN'T SHE?

SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN... IF THINGS HAD TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY.



RIGHT, WELL... MAYBE YOU'D STILL LIKE TO SEE THIS... MAYBE NOT.

WHAT IS IT? LOOKS LIKE THERE'S ENOUGH PAPER THERE TO CHOKA A COMPUTER.

THE D.A.'S OFFICE HAS NEVER BEEN KNOWN FOR DOING THINGS SWIFTLY.

THE D.A.'S OFFICE?!



AFTER YOU LEFT MY OFFICE THIS MORNING, I GAVE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TOWER A CALL. THIS IS HIS AUTHORIZATION TO OFFER THE BLACK CAT A CONDITIONAL AMNESTY.

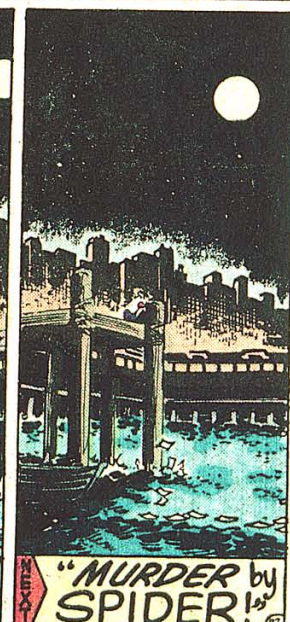
SPIDER-MAN... FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, I'M SORRY. I JUST WISH THESE BLASTED PAPERS HAD COME THROUGH SOONER!

CAPTAIN... COULD YOU DO ME A FAVOR?



ALONE, RIGHT?

YEAH, THANKS.



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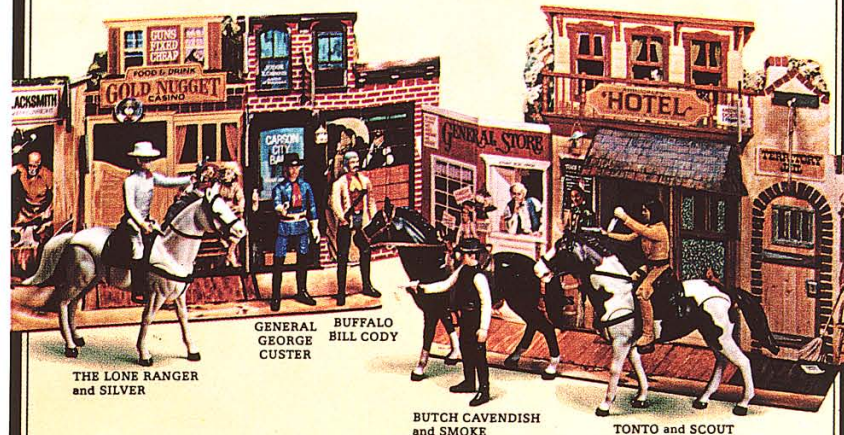
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